The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988 recently passed by Parliament, inter alia, provides for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs and also forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug-related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Opening of branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh

1688. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration for opening of more branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for rural and semi-urban centres and proposals submitted by banks for urban and metropolitan areas, RBI has allotted 19 rural centres and 2 metropolitan centres to Syndicate Bank for opening branches in Andhra Pradesh as per details given below:--

Name of district	No. of centres allotted
Ananthapur . .	2 (Rural)
Cuddapah . .	3 ,,
Kurnool . .	4 ,,
Nalgonda . .	2 ,,
Nellore . .	2 ,,
Prakasam . .	6 ,,
Hyderabad . .	2 (Metropolitan)
TOTAL : .	21

Foreign exchange losses due to export of certain drugs

1689. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing foreign exchange in export of certain drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cephalexin, Ethambutol, Mabendazol, Rifampicin, Dexycylin and Erythrromycin were exported in the past;

(d) if so, what are the names of the companies which had exported these drugs along with the names of the countries where the above drugs exported.

(e) what was the quantity exported and what was the price at which exported; and

(f) what were the assistance and benefits given on each of export of these drugs and what were the basis and policy kept in consideration in each case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) No case of loss of foreign exchange in export of drugs has come to the notice of Government.

(c) The bulk drugs, Cephalexin Ethambutol, Mebendazol Doxycyline HCL and Erythromycin have been exported from the country in the past. Export of Refampicin has been made during the current year.

(d) A Statement showing the names of major manufacturer exporters of these bulk drugs and the names of the countries where the above drugs exported are attached

(See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 93.]

(e) These data for each bulk drug are not maintained by the Export Promotion Council.

(f) Cash Compensatory Support at the rate of 15 per cent and Replenishment Licence at the rate of 15 per cent on FOB value of exports are admissible on export of the bulk drugs, referred to in Part (c) of the Question. In addition all industry rate drawback is payable at the rate of 4 per cent of bulk drugs and 3 per cent to others under S.S. No. 1202 of the Drawback Schedule. The quantum of export incentives is related to the FOB value of exports and not to the quantity of exports. Cash Compensatory Support on export of a product is determined on the basis of the extent of various disadvantages suffered by the export product as reflected in the duly verified cost data submitted by a representative Section of the Industry. The Duty Drawback is a refund of Central Excise and Customs Duty on the raw-materials/components used in the manufacture of the exported goods. Import replenishment entitlement is determined on the basis of the actual consumption of raw-materials for export production.

Accumulation of sands in the Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan

1690. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sands have accumulated in the Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan, blocking almost half of the water course of the Canal and thereby reduced the flow of water to half its capacity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a serious breach has taken place recently in this Canal thereby resulting damages to the standing crops alongside the bank of the Canal to the tune of crores of rupees;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to remove the sand from the Canal and to compensate the farmers who suffered losses on account thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government propose to grant special aid for this purpose to the State Government and if so, what is the quantum of fund to be given and by when it will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) There are some deposits of blown sand in the earlier completed portion of the Indira Gandhi Main Canal but so far sufficient capacity is available to pass the discharge as per requirement.

(b) There was no breach in the Indira Gandhi Main Canal in Rajasthan. The Birsalpur branch canal breached on 1st February, 1989 but there was no damage to standing crops and the breach was repaired in a week's time.

(c) and (d) The Government of Rajasthan are carrying out regular desilting to the extent required for running the channels. Arrangements are also being made by them to procure suitable equipment for desilting of the main canal.